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21. The floor mat according to claim 5, wherein the cushion layer material is segmented into two segments.

22. The floor mat according to claim 5, wherein the cushion layer material is segmented into at least three segments.

II. REMARKS

A. Status of the Claims:

Claims 1-20 were pending prior to the Office Action dated January 30, 2003. Claims 5-16 and 21-22 are presently pending. Claims 1-4 and 17-20 have been cancelled. Claims 21-22 have been added.

B. Restriction Requirement:

In the Office Action, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement, partitioning the claims into two groups. Group I included claims 1-4 and 17-20. Group II included claims 5-16. Applicant elects Group II. Claims 1-4 and 17-20 have been cancelled merely to implement the election. The issue of their patentability has not been raised.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the foregoing remarks fully respond to all outstanding matters for this application. Applicant respectfully suggests that the presently pending claims are allowable and that this application should therefore swiftly pass to issuance.

Should the Examiner question the allowability of any of the presently pending claims, the courtesy of a telephonic conference between the Examiner and the undersigned attorney at 512-469-6177 is respectfully requested. Alternatively, if the Examiner has any questions or concerns that may be addressed by phone, please do not hesitate to call.